

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in the present application. The drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a). Claims 1, 3 and 6 were objected to due to informalities. Claims 1-3 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ooka et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,784,253. Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ooka et al. in view of Stahl, U.S. Patent No. 6,460,772. Claims 4, 5, 7-14 and 16-19 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1, 3 and 6 have been amended. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

A supplemental Information Disclosure Statement including form PTO-1449 is submitted herewith for the Examiner's consideration.

Objection to the drawings

The drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a) because they fail to show element 20f (slit-shaped sensor) as described in the specification. The specification at paragraph [0025] has now been amended to properly recite 20d as the reference number for the slit-shaped sensor, as shown in Fig. 1b. Applicants thank the Examiner for pointing out this error.

Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a) is respectfully requested.

Objection to claims 1, 3 and 6

Claims 1, 3 and 6 were objected to due to informalities. Claim 1 has been amended at line 8, claim 3 has been amended at line 2, and claim 6 has been amended at line 2, all as suggested by the Examiner, so as to remove the informality problems. Applicants thank the Examiner for pointing out these errors.

Withdrawal of the objection to claims 1, 3 and 6 due to informalities is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-3 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ooka et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,784,253.

Ooka et al. describes a docking station for a portable computer. See Abstract.

Independent claim 1 of the present application recites that the first module includes “at least one fastening portion disposed on a rear side of the first module, the at least one fastening portion ... including at least one fastening element configured to mount the first module on the mounting panel”. It is respectfully submitted that Ooka et al. does not teach at least one fastening portion including at least one fastening element configured to mount the first module on the mounting panel, as recited in claim 1. Extension station 51 is not mounted to front wall 92 of top cover 91 using bracket 205, as indicated by the Examiner (see Office Action at page 4, lines 2-3). In contrast, bracket 205 of Ooka et al. merely serves to support connector holder 203 of second extension connector 200 (see Ooka et al., col. 19, lines 16-31, and Figs. 5 and 8), which detachably couples extension station 51 to computer 1 (see Ooka et al., col. 19, lines 16-19). Nowhere does Ooka et al. teach that bracket 205, or any other component, mounts extension station 51 to front wall 92. Fig. 11 makes clear that extension station 51 is not mounted to front wall 92, as front wall 92 is rotatable away from extension station 51 as part of top cover 91 from a closed position to an open position. See Ooka et al., col. 12, lines 52-59, and Fig. 11. Because Ooka et al. is missing at least these features of claim 1, it cannot anticipate claim 1 or its dependent claims.

Withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 1 and its dependent claims 2, 3 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) based on Ooka et al. is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ooka et al. in view of Stahl, U.S. Patent No. 6,460,772.

Stahl describes PCMCIA smart card reader. See Abstract.

Claim 15 properly depends from claim 1 and therefore includes all the limitations of claim 1. Stahl does not teach or suggest the features of claim 1 missing from Ooka et al., discussed above relative to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) based on Ooka et al. Therefore, a combination of Ooka et al. with Stahl could not render claim 15 unpatentable.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on a combination of Ooka et al. with Stahl is respectfully requested.

Allowable subject matter

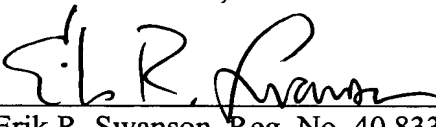
Claims 4, 5, 7-14 and 16-19 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants thank the Examiner for this indication of allowability, but respectfully decline to amend these claims until the Examiner has had the opportunity to consider the arguments presented above relative to independent claim 1.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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